

REMARKS

Claims 44-55 were pending, with claim 44 as the only independent claim.

Claims 45-48 and 51 have been canceled.

Claims 44, 49, 50, 52 and 53 are amended.

New claims 74-81 have been added.

After this amendment, claims 44, 49, 50, 52-55 and 74-81 are pending for examination, with claim 44 as the only independent claim.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claim 45-50 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claims 45-48 were cancelled. Therefore the rejections of said claims are moot.

However, a point of confusion may have arisen from the fact that, at the second line of paragraph [0081], it is stated that “the compressor drawer 160 includes opposite side rails 161a, 161b with a spring arm 161c extending therebetween ...” In said sentence, the side rails were incorrectly referred to with reference numbers 161a and 161b. The Applicants have amended to specification to refer to “side rails 163b, 163c.” FIG. 16B was correspondingly corrected.

Although no specific indication of the rejections of claims 49-50 under 35 USC 112 was provided, the Applicants assume that the rejection arose due to their dependence from now-cancelled claim 45. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 49-50 is requested.

Claims 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Applicants have amended claims 53 to overcome the rejections. The Applicants respectfully point out that claim 54 does not recite a “stripper finger” as alleged in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 53 and 54 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 102

Rejections over Cummings

Claims 44-50 and 55 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,503,275, to Cumming (hereinafter Cumming). Claim 44 has been amended to include subject matter from claim 51. Claim 51 was not rejected over Cumming.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 44-50 and 55 over Cumming is respectfully requested.

Rejections over Kikuchi

Claims 44-52 and 55 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,468,282, to Kikuchi et al. (hereinafter Kikuchi).

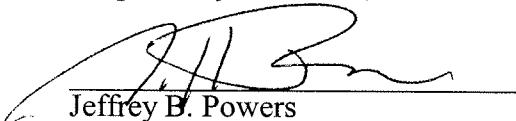
Claim 44 has been amended to recite “[a] stripper element adapted to extend between the retainer and the optic when the retainer is removably attached to the injector body.” The features at the bottom of the base of element 43 identified in the Office Action do not extend between the retainer and the optic. Accordingly, claim 44 is patentable over Kikuchi.

Claims 45-52 and 55 depend from claim 44 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 44. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 44-52 and 55 over Kikuchi is respectfully requested.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes otherwise, per the Attorney’s brief conversation with the Examiner in an attempt to arrange an Examiner Interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the Attorney at the number provided below to resolve any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,



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